Shiranui Kitanroku

BY INAI KAORU

Kaito Zero

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chapter 5

しらぬい奇譚録
HMPH, AND SO YOU CAME TO HEAR MY STORY?
I APOLOGIZE BUT I CANNOT LEAVE THIS BATHROOM
YES.
IF IT IS ALRIGHT WITH YOU I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO TELL ME YOUR STORY..
YES. OF COURSE.
I'LL TELL IT TO YOU LIKE THIS, IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
THEN, I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY ABOUT WHEN I MET A 'KAPPA'.
by 稲井カオル

稲井カオル
紐解く怪奇の足音
しらぬい奇譚録
しらぬいきたんろく
【其の伍】
KAPPA
Shiranui Kitanroku

4·5·6年
..OKAY, I'M TAKING THE ROLL NOW.
IIDA TAKEO-KUN
HERE!
PRESENT.
TADOKORO MIKI-SAN

FULL ATTENDANCE AGAIN TODAY! I'M SO HAPPY TO YOUR LIVELY FACES!
GET ALONG TODAY AS WELL, OKAY?
OKAY!
OH, IT'S MIKI-CHAN AND TAKE-CHAN.
THEY'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
THOSE TWO ARE THE ONLY CHILDREN IN THIS VILLAGE ANYWAY.

TAKE-KUN, YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT SWIMMING!
OF COURSE!
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: SPLASH
THOSE TWO ARE LIKE ONE.
MY GRANDPA AND OTHERS CALL ME 'KAPPA'!
HUH? KAPPA?
ISNT A KAPPA A MONSTER?
WELL... KAPPA'S ARE GOOD MONSTERS SO IT'S FINE!
Probably
THEN, WHEN YOU GO TO MIDDLE SCHOOL YOU SHOULD JOIN THE SWIM TEAM!
IF YOU'RE A KAPPA THEN YOU'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE TEAM RIGHT?
MIDDLE SCHOOL HUH.. I HATE STUDYING, THOUGH.

I WANT TO BECOME A REAL KAPPA ALREADY.
Eh-
BUT, HOW CAN YOU BECOME A KAPPA?
THEN I WON'T HAVE TO STUDY ANYMORE!
HMM . ALRIGHT!
LET'S GO HOME AND THINK ABOUT IT!
SFX, SPLASH
EH! WA- WAIT FOR ME!
FIRST, IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE IF YOU CAN'T SWIM VERY WELL.
AND YOU HAVE TO STAY UNDERWATER FOR A LONG TIME!
WOULDN'T YOU HAVE TO CHANGE WHAT YOU EAT? EATING ONLY FISH FOR EXAMPLE...
HM— THAT'LL BE HARD...
AH! I LEFT MY GOGGLES BY THE RIVERBED!
I'M GOING TO GET THEM!
OKAY. GOT IT.
SEE YOU TOMOR- ROW!

SENSEI, TERRIBLE NEWS!
THAT'S STRANGE. I HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD ABOUT THIS..
—HUH? TAKEO-KUN'S ABSENT TODAY?
WHAT?!
TAKEO-KUN WAS, BY THE RIVER....?!
I HEARD MIKI-CHAN STOPPED EATING DUE TO SHOCK..
DON'T GIVE UP! LET'S SEARCH FOR HIM TOO!
DON'T BE ETUPID! THEY HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND HIS BODY YET...
IS IT TRUE THAT TAKE-CHAN WAS SWEPT DOWN THE RIVER?

WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW...?
TAKE-CHAN...
— MIKI-CHAN.
TAKE-CHAN'S VOICE CALLING FOR ME...
THERE'S NO WAY THAT SUCH A LIVELY AND ENERGETIC PERSON LIKE TAKE-CHAN WOULD DIE, RIGHT?
IT STILL FEELS LIKE I'LL HEAR HIM ANY MOMENT NOW.

...TAKE-CHAN?
OVER HERE MIKI-CHAN
WHERE ARE YOU?!
WHERE ?!
IT'S TAKE-CHAN, RIGHT?!
I'M UNDER HERE.

IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T GET OUT.
WAIT! YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD!!
WAIT A MOMENT, I'LL GET AN ADULT TO COME RIGHT NOW...
UNDERNEATH HERE... YOU'RE UNDER THE DRAIN?
I UNDERSTAND. YOU CAN'T GET OUT, CAN YOU?
MIKI-CHAN
I'VE BECOME A REAL KAPPA

...EH? KAPPA...?
THAT'S RIGHT.
REMEMBER? DIDN'T I SAY I WANTED TO BECOME A KAPPA?

THEN, WE CAN TO TALK TO EACH OTHER FROM NOW ON?
YES, OF COURSE!
MIKI-CHAN, YOU'RE SPECIAL!
IT'S FORBIDDEN TO TALK TO HUMANS AFTER BECOMING A REAL KAPPA BUT
MY DREAM HAS BEEN FULFILLED. I'M SUPER HAPPY!
TAKE-CHAN...?
ANYWHERE WATER PASSES THROUGH, I CAN TALK TO YOU
I CAN'T GO OUTSIDE BUT, IF IT'S PLACES LIKE TAPS OR DRAINS

I KNEW IT! TAKE-CHAN ISN'T DEAD!!
YEAH, I CAN HEAR YOU.
TAKE-CHAN, I'LL BECOME A KAPPA TOO!
EH?
IT'S BORING TO PLAY AND GO TO SCHOOL WITHOUT YOU THERE!
HEY, IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
NO... BECOMING A KAPPA IS TOUGH
I WONDER IF YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT
THEN, DO YOU REMEMBER 'THE WAYS TO BECOME A KAPPA' WE TALKED ABOUT?
UM... WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
DON'T FORGET IT AGAIN!

NUMBER 2
'YOU MUST NOT TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT KAPPA'
THIS ONE'S OKAY TOO, RIGHT?
NUMBER 1
'KAPPA MUST SWIM VERY WELL'
YOU'LL BE OKAY WITH THIS ONE I THINK...
NUMBER 3
'KAPPA MUST ONLY EAT FISH'
SFX: MUNCH MUNCH
NUMBER 4
'KAPPA'S MUST STAY UNDER WATER LONGER THAN ON LAND'
I'M SO HAPPY YOUR APPETITE'S BACK, MIKI.
BUT ARE YOU FINE WITHOUT RICE OR ANY OTHER SIDE DISHES?
YES... I ONLY WANT FISH.

THERE ARE STILL LOT'S OF ADULTS BY THE RIVER.
I'LL HAVE TO BE PATIENT FOR THE TIME BEING.
SFX: FOURING
!!
THAT'S THE WAY, MIKI-CHAN.
IF YOU KEEP IT UP, YOU'LL PROBABLY BECOME A KAPPA IN NO TIME.
IS THAT TRUE, TAKE-CHAN?

I HAVE WORK HARDER ...
SO I CAN JOIN TAKE-CHAN FASTER.
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.
.. BUT THINKING ABOUT IT, KAPPA DON'T ACTUALLY EAT COOKED FISH, DO THEY?
SOME-THING MORE RAW...

HM...?
KAA-SAN, DID YOU TAKE THE GOLDFISH SOME-WHERE?
THE FISH BOWL'S EMPTY, YOU KNOW...?
SFX: KNOCK X5
— MIKI, PLEASE CUT IT OUT.
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO STAY IN THE BATH-ROOM EVERY DAY?
YOUR SKIN'S GOING TO GET WRINKLED AND ROUGH
SFX: BAM
MIKI!
ENOUGH WITH THIS...
SFX: PULL
AND YOU'VE ONLY BEEN EATING FISH...
...!

MI...
MIKI...
SFX: SLURP SLURP
SFX: THUP THUP
DEAR!!
MIKI IS...
MIKI IS!!
ずずず...

I WANT TO STAY HERE LIKE THIS.
I DON'T WANT TO GO OUTSIDE ANYMORE.
IT'S MUCH EASIER TO STAY UNDER WATER THAN ON LAND.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE ONLY BEEN EATING FISH, MY BODY'S BRIMMING WITH HEALTH.
HOW MYSTERIOUS...
THIS MUST BE HOW IT FEELS LIKE TO BECOME A KAPPA, TAKE-CHAN...

I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN HER *THERE*
SHE STARTED TALKING TO A DRAIN ON THE WAY HOME
IT WAS THAT DAY...
MIKI'S BEEN STRANGE EVER SINCE THAT DAY.
THAT MUST BE IT.

THAT DAY
EVER SINCE THE DAY WE WENT TO TAKEO-KUN'S FUNERAL...
—I HAVE BEEN IN THIS BATHROOM SINCE THEN
YOU'VE BEEN IMMERSED IN WATER THE WHOLE TIME. IS YOUR BODY ALRIGHT?
MY BODY?
SINCE THEN .. WHICH MEANS ABOUT HOW LONG NOW...?
WHO KNOWS... I HAVEN'T BEEN COUNT-ING.

I GUESS IT'S NOT REALLY ALRIGHT.
YOU CAN OPEN THE DOOR IF YOU *REALLY* WANT TO SEE THOUGH.
...NO. I'LL DECLINE.
EH?
...HEH, HEH, HEH YEAH
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITH NORMAL HUMANS
HEH HEH HEH
...BUT, EVEN IN SUCH A STATE YOU CAN STILL CONVERSE WITH PEOPLE?
I'M SORRY BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN TALK ANY LONGER.
THAT'S A SHAME
THEN IT'S ABOUT TIME I TAKE MY LEAVE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE STORY.
YES.

I'LL PASS YOUR WORDS ON TO TAKE-CHAN TOO.
To be continued...